



North Dakota

FARM REPORTER

Issue: 12-03

June 20, 2003

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CROP WEATHER

North Dakota Spring tillage and planting for the 2003 season began ahead of both last year and the five-year (1998-2002) average. The statewide average starting date for fieldwork was April 17 compared to April 25 last year.

Warm, dry weather during late April and early May helped producers make good planting progress. The favorable weather was followed by two weeks of cool, wet conditions pushing planting progress back to near the five-year average.

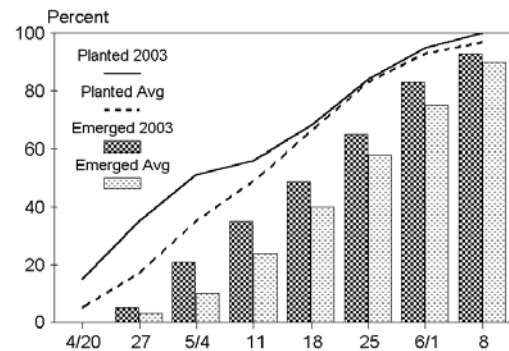
Small grain emergence was substantially ahead of the five-year average pace during May. Eighty-three percent of the hard red spring wheat was emerged as of June 1. By the middle of June, emergence for all crops except dry edible beans, potatoes and sunflower were equal to or ahead of the five-year average.

Crop condition ratings were rated mostly good to excellent through the middle of June. Hay crop condition ratings were significantly higher than last

year largely due to higher precipitation levels in the southwest and south central districts.

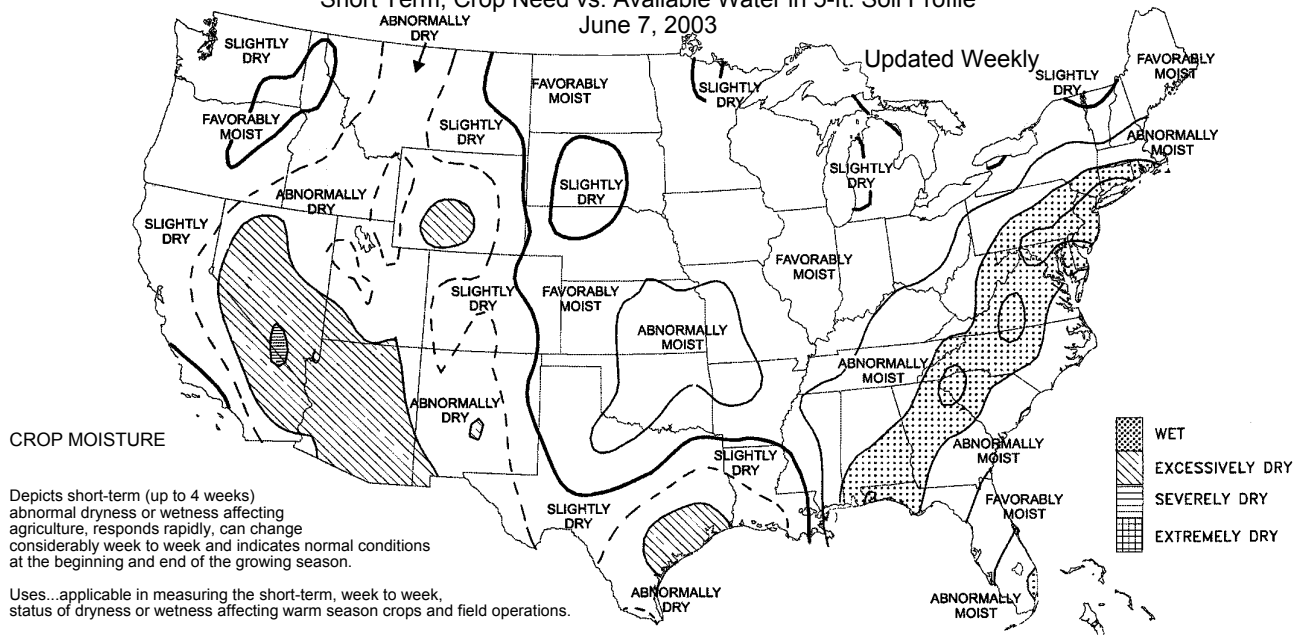
Topsoil moisture supplies were mostly short to adequate in early April before improving to mostly adequate to surplus by mid May. Much of the state received measurable precipitation for the week ending June 15. A small area in the northwest district is now dry after missing recent rains.

Spring Wheat Progress
North Dakota, June 8, 2003



CROP MOISTURE

Short Term, Crop Need vs. Available Water in 5-ft. Soil Profile
June 7, 2003



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PROJECT SAFE SEND

A healthy environment is something we North Dakotans take for granted. Keeping our air and water clean and pure, however, requires commitment and can be costly. For years, farmers and ranchers have done their part by safely storing unusable pesticides like DDT and mercury seed treatments.

*Now there's a way to get rid of these
old pesticides for good.
It's called Project Safe Send.*

Project Safe Send was started in 1992 to help farmers safely and legally dispose of unusable pesticides. Since then, more than 3,700 people have brought in more than 1.3 million pounds of pesticides. That's a lot! With the support of pesticide manufacturers, we have the funds to help get rid of more. We can accept any pesticides (this includes herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides and fungicides) that are old, unusable or banned like DDT, arsenic, dieldrin, chlordane or mercury seed treatments.

Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson said, "As a farmer, I know how often we end up with left over or unusable pesticides. Project Safe Send gives us all an opportunity to easily and safely dispose of these products at no cost!"

Collections are held at many locations across the state in the summer. These collection sites rotate throughout the state to provide access to a greater number of farmers and ranchers. After the collections, hazardous pesticides are carefully packed and shipped out of state for incineration.

Please check your storage areas for any unusable pesticides. If you find some, call ND Department of Agriculture at 1-800-242-7535 for information on the time and location of the next Project Safe Send collections. Call us if you need free heavy-duty plastic bags for transporting damaged containers of pesticides.

If you have more than 1,000 pounds of pesticides, pre-registration is requested. Rinsates that contain pesticides will be collected at no charge for the first 100 pounds; and then each additional pound will carry a \$1.00 per pound fee.

In the meantime, keep pesticides safely locked up. If you have deteriorating or leaking containers, overpack them in larger containers and add absorbent materials.

2003 Collection Sites 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (local time) ND Department of Transportation (DOT) Maintenance Yards

Tuesday, July 8

Center DOT

*East edge of Center,
south side of Hwy 25*

Tuesday, July 15

Hillsboro DOT

*Take I-29 exit 104 at
Hillsboro, east 1/2 block,
1/3 of a mile north on
6th Street NW*

Wednesday, July 9

Belfield DOT

*Take I-94 to exit 42, then
1/2 mile south on US #85,
DOT is just left of US #85*

Wednesday, July 16

Carrington DOT

*1/2 mile east of the Jct.
of Hwy 200 and US 281,
on the north side
of the road*

Thursday, July 10

Bowbells DOT

*Northwest corner of
Bowbells*

Thursday, July 17

Edgeley DOT

*2 miles north of Jct. 281
and 13, west side
of Hwy 281*

Friday, July 11

Rugby DOT

*1 mile east of the Jct. of
US 2 and ND 3, north 1
mile, east 1/4 mile*

Friday, July 18

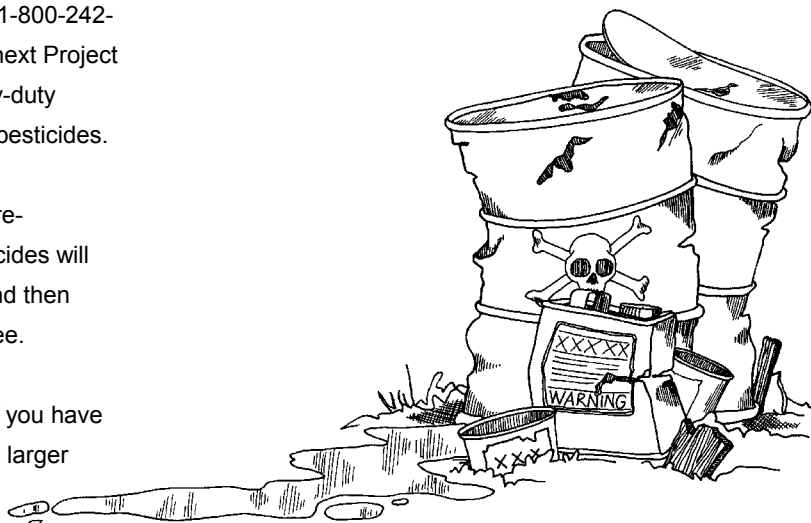
Lidgerwood DOT

25 Fourth Avenue SE

Monday, July 14

Adams DOT

*From the intersection of
First Avenue and Park
Street, go east a block,
on the south side
of the road*



POTATO STOCKS

North Dakota

Stocks of potatoes totaled 1.90 million hundredweight (cwt) on June 1, 2003 in North Dakota growers, dealers and processors storage facilities. Stocks are down 53 percent from both last year and the June 2001 estimate. Current stocks represent 8 percent of production, down from 15 percent last year and two years ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest totaled 21.6 million cwt, down 4 percent from 2002, and 6 percent below two years ago. Disappearance during May totaled 2.80 million cwt. This was below last May's disappearance of 2.90 million cwt but equal to the 2.80 million cwt disappearance two years ago.

United States

The 15 major potato States held 45.7 million cwt of potatoes in storage June 1, 2003, up 6 percent from last year but 25 percent below 2001. Potatoes in storage account for 11 percent of the 2002 fall storage States' production, the same as last year. Disappearance of 365 million cwt of potatoes from the 2002 crop is up 6 percent from 2001 but 8 percent below 2000. Processors in the 9 major States used 180 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 8 percent from a year ago but 6 percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 40.5 million cwt of the total processing.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND MAY STOCKS

State	Crop of 2001		Crop of 2002	
	Production	Stocks June 1, 2002	Production	Stocks June 1, 2003
	-- 1,000 Cwt --		-- 1,000 Cwt --	
NORTH DAKOTA	26,400	4,000	23,460	1,900
California	1,424	1/	4,450	200
Colorado	21,357	1,700	27,885	3,200
Idaho	120,200	18,500	133,385	20,000
Maine	16,430	1,800	16,960	1,900
Michigan	13,950	1/	13,878	1/
Minnesota	18,425	2,600	18,700	2,300
Montana	3,296	1/	3,224	1/
Nebraska	8,400	1/	8,611	1/
New York	5,942	1/	5,500	1/
Ohio	1,097	1/	1,008	1/
Oregon	20,730	3,000	24,936	2,300
Pennsylvania	3,173	1/	2,590	1/
Washington	94,400	10,000	95,200	12,000
Wisconsin	31,955	1,100	31,125	1,400
Other States		290		520
15 State Total	387,179	42,990	410,912	45,720

1/ Combined in Other States to prevent disclosure of individual operations.

WHEAT OUTLOOK

U.S. 2003/04 Supplies Up, World Production Down Sixth Year in a Row

Projected U.S. 2003/04 ending stocks of wheat are up 93 million bushels from last month due to larger supplies and unchanged use. Forecast winter wheat production is 63 million bushels above last month because of higher yields, especially in several major hard red winter (HRW) producing States. Forecast carryin stocks and projected imports are also increased from last month. Given the larger supplies, the projected price range is reduced 15 cents on each end to \$2.90 to \$3.50 per bushel.

Forecast 2002/03 U.S. wheat ending stocks are up 20 million bushels from last month due to higher expected imports and lower exports.

World wheat production is now expected to decline slightly from 2002/03 to 2003/04, the sixth consecutive year of reduced production. Projected foreign 2003/04 wheat production dropped 10 million tons this month, swamping the increase in the United States. However, supplies are down much less because of an 8-million-ton increase in

beginning stocks. Projected foreign 2003/04 ending stocks are down only slightly as consumption was reduced about as much as supplies. Global trade remained an estimated 105 million tons for 2002/03 and a projected 98 million for 2003/04.

Total 2003/04 Wheat Supplies Are Up From Last Month

Projected total supplies of 2,651 million bushels for the 2003/04 marketing year are up 93 million bushels from last month because projected carryin stocks are 20 million bushels higher, projected imports are up 10 million bushels, and forecasted winter wheat production is up 63 million bushels. Projected production of spring wheat (including durum) is unchanged from last month.

There are no changes from last month for the use of wheat for the 2003/04 marketing year, thus projected ending stocks are up by 93 million bushels to 604 million bushels. Projected 2003/04 ending stocks are up 136 million bushels from the projected 2002/03 ending stocks of 468 million bushels.

Source: Wheat Outlook, USDA-ERS, June 13, 2003

OIL CROPS OUTLOOK

Soybean Prices May be Near a Peak as Wet Weather and Slowing Demand Curb Their Rise

May was a wet month throughout the Midwest, which stalled the rapid planting progress that occurred during April. A broad swath ranging from southern Michigan down to the gulf coast had rainfall between 50 and 100 percent above normal for the month. Soil conditions generally improved by late May, which allowed planting to resume, although delays persist in areas along the Ohio River Valley. As of June 8, 84 percent of the U.S. soybean acreage had been planted, compared with the 5-year average of 87 percent. Cool weather has also slowed crop emergence, which at 62 percent lagged the 5-year average of 71 percent.

The minor delays in soybean planting this year should not materially constrain yield potential. Most of the crop has been sown and two-thirds of it is currently rated from good to excellent condition. While it is far too early to gauge 2003 soybean yields, the rains during May built up an ample reserve of soil moisture throughout the country that will favor crop germination and early growth. However, interruptions in completing the planting of corn, spring wheat, sunflowerseed, and canola could potentially add to the acreage seeded to soybeans. The USDA's June 30 Acreage report will confirm whether farmers have altered their planting from previous intentions.

Between March and May, central Illinois cash prices rose from a monthly average of \$5.65 to \$6.25 per bushel, which is the highest level in 5 years. Yet, the prospects for more acreage, near-trend yields, and renewed cash sales by U.S. farmers are beginning to slow the momentum of the spring rally in soybean prices. An upswing in deliveries of South American soybean stocks (as well as strong incentives to expand new-crop planting later this year) will also strengthen resistance to higher prices. In early June,

soybean prices slipped back toward \$6.10 per bushel. Provided the soybeans sown continue to develop normally, the 2003/04 national average farm price is expected to decline to \$4.45-\$5.45 per bushel.

The only change this month to USDA's 2003/04 soybean supply, demand, and price outlook is a 5-million-bushel increase in beginning stocks. With no adjustment in either the domestic use or export forecasts, the higher carryover raised the ending stocks forecast by the same amount to 250 million bushels. The reason for that upward revision in expected carryover stocks was a reduction in the 2002/03 soybean crush forecast from 1,615 million to 1,610 million bushels. For September-April, the soybean crush totaled 1,109 million bushels versus 1,164 million the previous year. The new forecast implies that the subsequent May-August crush will continue to trail last year's volume. The erosion of available supplies this season from a smaller crop and buoyant exports has squeezed domestic crushing margins.

The 2002/03 forecast of soybean exports was unchanged this month at 1,010 million bushels. The Census Bureau reports that September 2002-March 2003 soybean exports were 835.4 million bushels, virtually even with the 835.1 million exported a year earlier. After a solid performance in April, the pace of U.S. export sales and shipments finally bottomed out during May. Total export commitments are again falling behind last year's pace and are expected to remain flat throughout the summer. Five countries (Mexico, Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, and South Korea) account for 91 percent of the remaining outstanding sales. Another sign that export demand has weakened is that the spread between soybean prices paid by Illinois processors and the Gulf export price has narrowed to just 15 cents per bushel, compared with the January average of 43 cents. With alternative sources of supply becoming more available, most foreign buyers have become less willing to bid as strongly for increasingly scarce U.S. soybeans.

Source: Oil Crops Outlook, USDA-ERS, June 12, 2003

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ND AG STATISTICS SERVICE

Published 24 Times Annually
Subscription: \$10/Year
Free to Reporters

FARM REPORTER

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